

SUPPORTING NATIONAL
HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1388, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week. As a representative of a Congressional District along Florida's Gulf Coast, many of my constituents have witnessed the destruction that hurricanes can cause. Although the Tampa Bay area has been fortunate enough to evade the path of a major storm for the past five years, we must not forget the importance of being prepared.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted that this could be an extremely active hurricane season, with 14 to 23 named storms. I worry that predictions of an active season exacerbated by the still unknown implications of the effects of the oil spill could be a recipe for the most devastating season we've yet to experience.

Although we hope and pray that this will not become reality, we must also call to mind the memories of the power outages and physical damage caused by the high speed winds. We must put ourselves in a position of preparedness.

I encourage all individuals, especially those who reside along the Gulf Coast and Eastern Seaboard, to take the necessary precautions to prepare themselves and their families should these predictions prove accurate. Develop an emergency plan. Make a disaster preparedness kit that includes water, non-perishable food items, a first aid kit, medications, and important documents. Know emergency evacuation routes. The best time to prepare is now.

IN SUPPORT OF THE CALLING
CARD PROTECTION ACT (H.R. 3993)

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support for the Calling Card Protection Act (H.R. 3993) and would like to commend Rep. ENGEL for his leadership on this issue.

The Calling Card Protection Act provides common-sense solutions to protect consumers from fraud and abuse.

When buying a calling card, a consumer should receive the full amount of time purchased to talk to their family or friends.

Unfortunately, because of hidden fees and charges, this is not the case.

H.R. 3993 requires that calling card providers accurately and clearly disclose any fees and charges . . . and provide an accurate representation of how many minutes the card will provide.

Madam Speaker, our troops use pre-paid calling cards to call their loved ones while they are fighting for us overseas.

They deserve the full amount of time when calling their family.

HONORING SAUNDERS MIDDLE
SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED ONE
OF THE TOP PERFORMING
SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Saunders Middle School for being named as a School to Watch and as one of the top 90 performing middle-grades schools in the nation by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform in 2010.

Saunders Middle School provides an outstanding academic environment for its students to learn. The teachers' devotion to the students' well-being and the students' commitment to learning and challenging themselves have set Saunders Middle School above its counterparts. The staff and student body earned this award by not only being an excellent academic school, but also by being sensitive to each individual students' needs and fostering a socially equitable environment as the students begin to make their transition from adolescence to young adulthood. As a School to Watch, the students and teachers of Saunders Middle School provide a great example of what our educators and students across the nation should strive to achieve.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Saunders Middle School for this recognition and in wishing, its teachers and students continued success.

HONORING RON GETTELFINGER
FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE
UAW

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ron Gettelfinger who is retiring from his role as president of the United Auto Workers after years of outstanding service.

Mr. Gettelfinger has spent his entire career in the auto industry. His union involvement began in 1964 with his first job at Ford's truck plant in Louisville, Kentucky as a line repairman. There he was elected committee member, bargaining chair and president for the plant. After excelling in these roles he soon moved on to be elected president of his local union in 1984. With diligence, hard work and constant concern for his fellow worker, Mr. Gettelfinger quickly rose through the union ranks, serving 6 years as director of UAW region 3 until his election as the UAW Vice President in 1998. Mr. Gettelfinger's career as UAW president began with his election in 2002, and was reconfirmed in 2006.

At 65, Mr. Gettelfinger is retiring, following a longstanding union precedent that asks union presidents not run for reelection beyond this age. He will long be remembered for his dedication to his fellow workers, whom he warmly refers to as his "brothers" and "sisters." We can only hope that future presidents will share

his inspiring work ethic and thoughtful concern for those whom he was charged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again offer congratulations to Mr. Ron Gettelfinger for his tenure as UAW president and to wish him the best of luck as he moves onward from his post.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF UNITED STATES-JAPAN
TREATY OF MUTUAL COOPERA-
TION AND SECURITY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the First Japanese Diplomatic Mission to the United States as the Museum for the City of New York pays tribute to Samurai in New York—The First Japanese Delegation, 1860.

On March 17, 1860, exactly 150 years ago today, a sailing ship flying a flag never before seen in North America entered the Golden Gate. It was the Kanrin Maru, the first Japanese ship ever to cross the Pacific on its arrival to San Francisco, California. Japan had been closed to the rest of the world for more than 200 years until 1854, when Commodore Matthew Perry and his squadron of American warships forced the Japanese to open their doors to trade.

The Kanrin Maru had a difficult and stormy 37-day voyage from Japan when it set sail in the winter of 1860. During its time of isolation, the Japanese had had no oceangoing ships and only one member of the Japanese crew had ever been beyond the sight of land. This epic voyage continued until the ship arrived in San Francisco, when the crew's first appearance was revealed on American soil.

At that time, San Franciscans were familiar with the Chinese immigrants in California, but were amazed to see this delegation of distinguished men, so noted by the senior man aboard, Admiral Yoshitake Kimura, who had a shaved head and a topknot in the manner of a samurai. It was also observed and reported by the San Francisco Evening Bulletin that there had been important officers who carried two swords and were obsessed with etiquette. It is also noted that these men always wore robes and never wore hats.

On the other hand, the Japanese were surprised that San Franciscans walked on expensive rugs with their muddy boots. They were astonished that the powerful governor of California traveled without an escort of retainers and that Americans used horses to pull their carriages. They were also amazed that American men treated women as equals.

Twelve days after the arrival of the Kanrin Maru, the USS *Powhatan* arrived bringing the first Japanese Embassy to the United States to ratify the new treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the United States and Japan. Sent by the Tokugawa Shogunate were three Ambassadors, Masaoki Shinmi, Norimasa Muragaki and Tadamasu Oguri whom headed the mission to exchange instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce. The delegation also included a group of approximately eighty samurai diplomats. The delegation officially arrived